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woodlands. One of the most interesting features is a wood composed largely of box (*Buxus sempervirens*), possibly native to Britain.—H. C. COWLES.

**Jurassic Osmundaceae.**—SINNOTT<sup>12</sup> has investigated the structure of petrified stems of *Osmundites Dunlopi* from the Jurassic of New Zealand. They are characterized by a parenchymatous pith, with no internal phloem or endodermis, and leaf gaps are invariably present. In one specimen typical diarch roots, with a definite cortex, were observed in the pith, and it is concluded that the xylem elements described as forming part of a "mixed pith" in *O. Kolbei* probably represent root bundles. It is thought that the relationship between Zygopterideae and Osmundaceae cannot be close, since the anatomy of the leaf trace and foliar bundle in the two groups is so widely different. It seems evident that there were both protostelic and siphonostelic Osmundaceae during the Mesozoic, and there is no evidence that the protostelic forms have given rise to the siphonostelic ones.—J. M. C.

**Welwitschia.**—CHURCH<sup>13</sup> has made a detailed study of the strobili of *Welwitschia*, supplying facts and new illustrations that were much needed. The "flowers" having clearly been originally bisporangiate, much attention is given to reduction phenomena, such as dicliny, the diminished number of members, etc. A good deal is made of "minimum construction" associated with a xerophytic type, observed in the perianth, the androecium, and gynoecium; but the statement is emphasized that "a minimum construction does not imply any phylogenetic relationship to other minimum types." The author finds no indication of any relation to the flowers of angiosperms.—J. M. C.

**Relationships of Fagaceae.**—Miss BERRIDGE<sup>14</sup> has investigated the flowers of certain Fagaceae, especially those of *Castanopsis chrysophylla*, comparing them with those of *Castanea vulgaris*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Quercus Robur*, and *Juglans regia*. She takes issue with the common conclusion that the Amentiferae are an isolated group, with no obvious relationship to other angiosperms. She shows that the flower differs in no essential from other epigynous types of flowers, and compares in detail the flowers of Rosaceae and Cupuliferae, claiming that in all probability the epigynous Rosaceae are most nearly related to the ancestors of the Fagaceae.—J. M. C.

<sup>12</sup> SINNOTT, E. W., Some Jurassic Osmundaceae from New Zealand. Ann. Botany 28:471-479. pl. 37. 1914.

<sup>13</sup> CHURCH, A. H., On the floral mechanism of *Welwitschia mirabilis* (Hooker). Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc. London B 205:115-151. pls. 9-13. 1914.

<sup>14</sup> BERRIDGE, E. M., The structure of the flower of Fagaceae, and its bearing on the affinities of the group. Ann. Botany 28:509-526. figs. 9. 1914.